

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2004
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on September 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Board Room, Los Angeles, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chair
Fran Florez, Vice Chair
Marc Adelman
Donna Andrews
Rod Diridon, Sr.
T.J. Stapleton

Members Absent: Bob Giroux
Lynn Schenk

Closed Session

The Authority convened in closed session pertaining to potential litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 11126, subdivision (e) (2) (B) (i). Chair Petrillo reconvened open session and stated the Authority would be convening in closed session again prior to lunch to accommodate the members that had experienced travel delays.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chair Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation. Member Adelman seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 (Member Diridon was not present for the vote).

Members Reports

Member Diridon presented information regarding the status of high-speed rail nationally and the advocacy strategy developed by HSGTA. Member Diridon stressed the Authority's need for representation in Washington. Member Diridon suggested the formation of a sub-committee to develop a federal strategy for the Authority.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported on the 2004/2005 budget, stating that the Governor reduced the Authority's budget by \$720,000, which was the amount requested for the completion of the EIR/EIS. Executive Director Morshed stated that due to lack of funds he was uncertain whether or not the Authority could complete and certify the EIR/EIS in 2004/05.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the recommendations of the California Performance Review (CPR), stating the CPR recommended a creation of an Infrastructure Department which included the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the Governor's signing of SB 1169 (Murray), which moved the bond measure from the November 2004 ballot to November 2006. Executive Director Morshed reported that the Governor's signing message stated that he (the Governor) was not prepared to support the bond measure until the Authority presented a feasible and solid financial plan.

Executive Director Morshed discussed the 2005/06 budget, stating the amount the Authority requested is \$2.7 million, which includes funds for the legal defense of the environmental document, for the completion of the EIR/EIS, and the preparation of a financial plan.

Executive Director provided an update on the development of the scope of work with MTC for the preparation of a statewide ridership study.

Implementation Plan Presentation

Nick Brand from Systra presented an overview of the Implementation Plan with discussion on selected areas of the Plan. A copy of this presentation is available on the Authority website at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov or upon request.

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Summary of Comments Received on the Draft Program EIR/EIS

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt presented a summary of the comments received on the draft program EIR/EIS. A copy of this report is available on the Authority website at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov or upon request.

Identification of Preferred Alignment and Station Locations

Deputy Director's Carrie Pourvahidi and Dan Leavitt presented for board consideration part 1 of the staff recommendations for identifying preferred alignments and station locations for portions of the high-speed train system for the preparation of the final EIR/EIS. A copy of this report is available on the Authority website www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov or upon request.

Public Comment

Eddy Moore, Planning Conservation League Foundation

Mr. Moore discussed the comments submitted by the PCL regarding the Northern Mountain Crossing.

Sara Feldman, CA State Parks Foundation

Ms. Feldman highlighted the Foundation's comments submitted on the draft EIR/EIS, focusing on their assertion that the environmental document is insufficient and fails to comply with CEQA and NEPA.

Richard Marcus, Orange County Transportation Authority

Mr. Marcus discussed the comments submitted by OCTA on the draft EIR/EIS.

Members Comments

The Authority members discussed the staff recommendations and gave their advisory approval of the recommendations. Chair Petrillo recused himself from discussion and tentative action on the Antelope Valley alignment, Chair Petrillo suggested that the station in Palmdale be considered at the airport.

Authority Comments to Caltrans and the Federal Railroad Administration

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt presented proposed comments on the Department of Transportation's draft program EIR/EIS for the LOSSAN Corridor for board approval.

Public Comment

Michael Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson commented on the potential noise impacts and the Altamont Pass issue.

John Brooks, City of Palmdale

Mr. Brooks thanked the Authority for their advisory approval of the Antelope Valley alignment. Mr. Brooks stated that the City of Palmdale would support a station location at either the Palmdale Transportation Center or the airport.

Next Authority Meeting

Executive Director Morshed stated that the next Authority meeting was scheduled for November 3rd, however this was the day after the election and recommended the meeting be moved one week to November 10th.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.